

116 THE

Secret History

OF THE

Prince of the NAZARENES

AND

Two Turks.

To which is added,

The Fatal AMOUR between a
Beautiful LADY, and a Young
NOBLEMAN.

*Humanae sortis non tribuenda sunt Fortuna,
aut Casui, aut Siderum influxui; sed Pro-
vido Dei Oculo, & ejusdem Manui rec-
trici.*——

L O N D O N :

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SECRET

OF THE

Office of the

and

SECRET





THE
 Secret History
 OF THE
 Prince of the NAZARENES.



THE Prince of the *Nazarenes* is sprung from one of the most antient and illustrious Families in *Europe*. A Family which has shone very resplendent in former Ages, and furnish'd the enlighten'd World, with many Princely

A 2 *Asser-*

Asserters of the Nazarene Law : Among the rest, none seems to have a more strict Regard to the *Life and Doctrine* of the mighty *Emperor*, his Master, than this present Prince, who now flourishes and reigns in the Hearts of all his Subjects.

As he has had all the Advantage of Birth and Education, so *Providence* endow'd him with a Soul capable of attaining to all that's *Good and Great*.

And whereas the *Dregs* of the World, whose Eyes are too weak to bear the Lustre of his Vertues, have been vilely and maliciously excited to sling their *Party-Scum* at his *Royal Person and Family*, yet the more penetrating and judicious Part of Mankind, take delight in contemplating the many noble Excellencies, and Blessings they share in that Part of the *Administration* he has over them.

And tho' some Princes before him, have been so weak, as to suffer their *Creatures* to push 'em upon fatal Measures, yet we see in him, such an *Antipathy* against *Arbitrary and Despotick Power*, that it is as an Article of Faith with him, *That Princes ought to have the tenderest Regard to the Consciences of their Subjects*. And that it is a Mischief, attended with the most fatal Consequences, to abuse their
Power,

Power, and break in upon the Rights of their People.——

Maxims, not only founded upon *Reason*, the equitable *Law of Nature*, but even *revealed Religion* it self ; which can lead no Prince astray ; but rather swell his Monarchy to the utmost Limits : When, on the other-hand, we have seen, that an excessive Rigour, used without Cause, has been very unsuccessful to some *Princes* ; for, by its alienating the Hearts of the People, they have grown weary under their Government, and (*as once wisely*) by a general Consent, resolved to choose themselves *better Masters*. Nay, it has had such an evil *Tendency*, (*if it may be so call'd*) that they have been apt to assert, *Not only a Right of Chusing themselves a Sovereign, but, likewise, a Right to Divest him of that Power, in case he makes an ill Use of it.——*

But as the Validity of this *Controversy*, is none of our *Province* to decide, we shall wave it, and only say, That when Princes expose themselves to *this* ; use their Subjects as if they were brute Beasts ; and, without scruple, violate the most inviolable and sacred Rights, they run a very nice Hazard of losing *All* ; which can only be regain'd, but by *Blood and Slaughter* ;

ter ; and that too, very seldom, thro' the Aversion their Subjects have to *Despotick Power* ; especially in those who have a Right to expect, that their *Sovereigns* should submit to the *Laws*, which mutually engage them one to another.

But, lest the Reader should observe by this Digression, that we run from our Subject, we will return to the Character of the *Nazarene Prince* : And as we only design to give a short Account of his most important Actions, we will slip over those of his youthful Years, and come immediately to speak of him at his entering upon the Administration of a Sovereign Prince.

As soon as he held the *Reins* of Government, he betook himself to a strict Application, in order to the enriching his Subjects ; and shew'd himself very liberal, and of a tender and gentle Nature. He has a great and generous Soul, with as much solid Wit as any Prince in this Age ; both *Friends* and *Enemies* acknowledge it, by doing him Justice herein.

As to his *Humour*, it is generally Grave, and attracting, (as his *Aspect*) but free, and easy of Access ; which finishes the Number of those Talents peculiar to a Monarch.

These

These Qualifications, of themselves, are sufficient to render him *Compleat*, but there are yet still greater to come. He is admir'd by all the World, for his Firmness of Courage, which cannot be sufficiently esteem'd ; the Greatness of his Heart, and the Dependance he has upon the Assistance of the *Emperor* his *Master*, whose *Faith* he defends, buoys him up, and protects him against all the Rage of the *heathen World*. His *Master* had a treacherous Minister, that bore an eminent Post under him ; his Vice-roy has had many of the same Spirit, whose fatal Enterprizes might even make 'em Wish, *That a Milstone were ty'd about their Necks, and that they were thrown into the Sea.* So that it may be said of him, as of the *Palm-Tree*, the more it is burthen'd, the more it raises its Head, and flourishes.

As to *martial Affairs*, he has approv'd himself an experienc'd General, when in the Field ; not following on the one hand, the Example of those who sleep at their Ease on Beds of Down, whilst their braver Soldiers expose their Lives for their Interests, and are over-whelm'd with Fatigue and Hardship : nor given in to the slovenly Meannesses of others, whose desperate, (or rather mad) Exploits, in the
North,

North, have been as diverting as those of *Don Quixot*, and the *Wind-mill* : But his Method was to keep such fast Intelligence, as that he knew every thing, and could keep a Padlock upon his Intentions, and remain absolute Master of a Secret. Had his great *Benefactor* ——— now Immortal, observ'd so close a Reserv'dness, the Treachery of the *K---e* of *B-----*, the *F---l* of *C-----n*, and the mercenary I know not what, of *S---*, had not expos'd his Councils so often, to the breaking of all his Measures. ——— But,

To proceed. There is such a Sense of Gratitude in him, that he never suffers any fine Action to go unrewarded. So that it's no Flattery to affirm, that he has distinguish'd himself sublimely among the Princes of this Age.

He is not only Master of most Languages, but has read much, and retain'd it all ; and understands the Excellency and Usefulness of *Authors* extremely.

There is no Secret in *Philosophy*, either Antient or Modern, but what he has penetrated ; and more particularly *Theology*. Not that the *Professors* of it, engross all his Inclinations to themselves, his Subjects have a great Share in them, as well as his Affections.

And

And as for this Prince's Lineage, in general, we find by the several *Genealogies* in History, that he claims a lineal Descent as a Sovereign Prince, for above Seven Hundred Years; the Family having produced several Emperors and Empresses, besides a long Train of Kings and Princes: So that even most of the Potentates of *Europe*, are descended from this Family; besides an eminent Tribe of *Ecclesiasticks*, as Arch-Bishops, Bishops, &c. spiritual Princes.

In short, this Prince of the *Nazarenes*, is the more Illustrious, in that there runs thro' his Veins, not only the *British* Blood, but that of *France*, the antient *Picts*, *Danes*, *Swedes*, *Saxons*, and *Normans*.

So that he exceeds all the Sovereigns on Earth, for the Antiquity of his Royal Descent, being now the most Potent, and Opulent Assertor of the *Nazarine* Doctrine.

And that the Sect of the *Nazarenes*, might be secur'd from *Apostatizing* into their former State of *Pseudo-Worship*, synonymous with the Practice of *Pagans*, Providence has given this Prince, a numerous Issue, well Educated, and Instructed in the new Laws and Ordinances of their mighty Emperor; whereby the *Haut-Eglise*

lian Patriarchs, whose Expectations are beyond the *Alps*, can never have it in their Power, to Saddle their Princes, and ride 'em to Destruction as they have done formerly.

I have seen amongst the most nicest Pictures in this Prince's Court, an Original Piece representing one of the Branches of his Family, a most accomplish'd, and brave Prince, yet the implicitness of his Faith, and the freeness of his Nature, once sunk him into so much Submission to the *Mufti* at *Rome*, as to hold the Cup to him one Day at Dinner, so long on his Knee before he took it, that the crimson Retinue about him, were asham'd of his treating so great a Prince in that manner; telling him that it was time he should take the Cup and drink. —

But instead of compensating for this Affront, his spiritual Arrogance, continued a greater Piece of Ingratitude towards him in the following History of it.

" This Prince suspecting he should have
 " Issue by his Queen, persuaded her to
 " adopt a certain Cousin of his, and marry his Neice. Which was no sooner
 " done, but the *Mufti* persuaded him to
 " a Disobedience, and the highest Ingratitude, and excited him to rebel against
 " his

" his adopted Parents ; upon which, they
 " justly took up Arms against him, and
 " besieg'd him in a strong Fortrefs not far
 " from *Rome*. But the Success was very
 " unfortunate ; for by a barbarous Strata-
 " gem, the adopted Son, brib'd an old
 " Soldier, in whom the King and Queen
 " had confided, to counterfiet her
 " Seal, whom his Party had invested
 " in another Fortrefs ; and in her Name,
 " to write to the King, that with Six of
 " his Confidents, he should come to her
 " by a private Avenue nam'd in her Let-
 " ter ; otherwise she must Surrender and
 " fall into the Hands of her Enemies ; but
 " that she had something to propose to
 " him, that would baffle their Designs.
 " The King believing the Letter real,
 " follow'd the Instructions in it, and set
 " out accordingly ; but was intercepted
 " by a Party in Ambuscade, and carry'd
 " before his adopted Son, who put him
 " in Prison for three Years. During
 " which time, his unhappy Queen was
 " taken and put to Death.—

The preserving of this Piece in the Na-
 zarene Family, must certainly excite 'em
 to a very profound Regard to the present
Mufti, who has labour'd hard to give 'em

a Specimen of the good Will he bears them :
And 'tis the rather inserted here, that the
Reader may recollect what fatal Consequences
have attended the Counterfeiting
the Seals of Princes, at the Instigation of
the *Mufti* of *Rome*, in former Days.

No doubt, but the present Prince of
the *Nazarines* had an Eye upon this
Picture, when the *E——r* of *C——n*
was stir'd up by the *Mufti*, to persecute
the peaceable *Nazarenes* in his Territories ;
and induc'd him to send his veteran
Troops into the *E——s* Capital
City, to make the *Mufti's* Dragoon, keep
to the solemn Treaties he had agreed to,
in relation to the spiritual Affairs of his
Subjects.

And notwithstanding, this Bully stomach'd
the Conduct of the *Nazarene* Prince, 'tis
certain he could find no Expedient to prevent
it. All that he could do, after repeated
Advices from the *Mufti*, was to draw up a
tedious and absur'd Remonstrance of his
Grievances, which he laid before the Grand
Cabal of Princes.

But this *Remonstrance* was soon silenc'd
by a *Manifesto* from the Prince. For
when it was brought into Debate, in a
full Congress, the *E——s* own Creatures
could not justify those *wholsome Se-*
verities

verities he had inflicted upon the conscientious Nazarenes. So that they unanimously resolv'd,

1. That the Prince of the Nazarenes had Justice on his side, in throwing his Troops into the E——'s Capital City, since it was conformable to the Tenor of the Treaty stipulated between the Two Powers. And,

2dly, That having look'd into several other Treaties since, they found a farther Right confirm'd to the Nazarene Prince, by which he was at liberty, upon any Infringements of the same, to levy Troops, and do himself Justice.

Lastly, That they could not so much as desire the Prince of the Nazarenes, to withdraw his Troops from the E——'s Capital, till the Grievances of the Nazarenes were redress'd ; it being inconsistent with the Honour and Faith of Princes.

This

This Affair being thus decided, the necessary Orders were given, (*tho much against the Grain*) for the re-instating the *Nazarenes*, in the spiritual Rights and Priviledges they formerly enjoy'd, to the great Mortification of the *Mufti*, and his sanguine Party.

We return now to take a Prospect of those Demonstrations of Joy his Subjects express'd upon this Occasion. Every one threw up Exultations to Heaven, and express'd with grateful Hearts, their Acknowledgments for this Divine Favour.

There were publick Thanksgivings set apart thro' the whole Territories of the Prince; and the Cannon from the Ramparts of the Castle were fir'd, with all other suitable Demonstrations of Joy.

And what made the Joy more universal, was no doubt the Remembrance of that fatal Year, wherein another of the *Mufti's* Bigots, most cruelly put to death the Flower of the *Nazarene* Nobility, after he had ruin'd one of the finest Countries in the World, with Fire and Blood.

And that the *Western Nazarenes* may never apostatize to so bloody a Religion, we will insert the following Account of it.

'Tis

'Tis not yet a compleat *Century*, since the Grand-father and Grand-mother of this present Prince of the *Nazarenes*, were unjustly depriv'd not only of their elective Kingdom, but of their own Hereditary Dominions ; his implacable Enemy penetrating into the very Bowels of their capital City, and oblig'd 'em to fly to some more hospitable Country for Refuge.

The persecuting Conqueror having thus gain'd his Point ; he took such cruel Methods with the distressed *Nazarenes*, that perhaps the like was never known.

First then, he seiz'd the chiefest of the Nobility in the Kingdom, and put them into Prison. Then on a fatal Day, assign'd to act this Tragedy, a Piece of Ordnance was discharg'd, which was to be the Signal of it. As soon as it was heard, all the Gates of the City were shut, and the Persecutor's Forces took Possession of them, and of most parts of the City.

When they found themselves in a Condition to undertake any thing without Fear, a Scaffold was erected in an open place, upon which mounted a tall Man all in Black, with a Masque upon his Face, and a Crucifix in his Hand. They gave him the fatal Name of *Herald of Death*,

Death, by reason that his Office was to signify it to those to whom the Hangman was to give it.

After this mournful Introduction, the most Illustrious *Nazarene* Noblemen of the Kingdom, were brought out of Dungeons ; several of which Lords being Venerable by Birth, yet they had all the same Fate, which was, to fall by the Sword of the Executioner.

Nor did the Rage of the *Mufti's* Dragoon end here; which put the best Families of the Kingdom into Mourning : His Malice extended yet farther ; thirsting after the total Extirpation of the *Nazarenes*, he caus'd the Charters and Patents, together with all other Papers and Parchments, which contain'd the most valuable Privileges of their Cities, to be brought before him ; and having a great Fire lighted in his presence, he flung them all into it, saying,

'Tis thus that such unhappy Instruments, which have given so much Trouble and Vexation to my Predecessors, ought to perish.

And thus it was that this fine Kingdom was reduc'd into a miserable State of Servitude, and Captivity.

Having

Having spoken concisely of this dismal Affair, we return to the Prince's Court, which was very splendid. He gave great Incouragement to Foreigners to resort to it, by his collecting together one of the finest Libraries in the World.

Nor was he wanting to incourage Arts and Sciences, which found vast Improvements by him, in their several Branches, particularly *Mechanisms* ; much to the Advantage of his Subjects, who were thereby enrich'd, and in a flourishing Condition.

And now having weakly finish'd the Character of this great Prince, in his *Hereditary Dominions*, we will follow him into the Field, at a Time, when his Faith and Alliances call'd him to Vindicate the Honour of the Christian *Europe*, against *Turks* and *Infidels*.

There had been handed about, at his going into the Army, an ancient Prophecy, or rather *Hieroglyphick*, in the *Arabian* Tongue, which possess'd most People with a strong Impulse, that God had visibly declar'd in Favour of him.

Those that pretend to explain *Hieroglyphicks*, would do well to employ their Wits about this ; and try if they have
 C Eyes

Eyes strong enough to scrutinize, and unfold the Mysteries of it. *

It was, *The Representation of an Ambitious in a Ring, which had two Prospects; the one representing (looking directly upon it) an Angel, holding over the Head of a comely Man, a Crown, with this Motto round it, The Belgick Lyon's Legacy fulfil'd. But looking oblong, or side-ways, it afforded the Prospect of a Person on Horseback, with a drawn Sword in his Hand, and his Enemies aiming to shoot him thro' the Back, with this Motto, Save, generous Ottomans, the Nazarene !*

But as the Reader will hear more of this, in the sequel of our History, we will look into his Successes in the Field.

His Actions in several Places, quickly let the World see that *Fortune* waited upon all his Conduct, to declare every where in his Favour. So that he met with a Reception from his Confederates, with all the endearing Caresses imaginable.

* 'Tis presumed by the Compiler of these Sheets, that the Explanation of this Hieroglyphick, is the peculiar Province of the Pseudo-Nazarene Students, grazing upon the Banks of Isis, and famous for inventing Annually dark and amusing *Aigma's*.

Having already spoken largely to some material Circumstances arising from the Antiquity and Fidelity of this illustrious Family ; we will look a little into the Actions of the nearest in Blood, to the Prince of the *Nazarenes*.

The Prince his Brother, born about a Year after him, was a most hopeful and promising Prince, in whom might be seen many of the noble Accomplishments which shone in his illustrious Ancestors. He had a wise, penetrating Genius, with a strong Inclination to acquire Glory by the Sword : Which Resolution led him to take up Arms against the Infidels, who blasphemously bid Defiance to the mighty Emperor of the *Nazarenes*.

Many and brave were the Actions of this gallant Prince, the Memory of which, deserves to be transmitted to Posterity, for the singular Bravery, and undaunted Courage which attended them.

For, he had not quite arriv'd to the Age of Thirty, before he spent the last Drop of his Blood, and dy'd gloriously in the Field, being kill'd in a Battle against the *Infidels*, to the unspeakable Grief of his most illustrious Family.

The Third Brother is yet living, and is a Prince every way deserving the Trusts

repos'd in him, particularly that most important Post he now enjoys, as Chief General of an Army compos'd of the bravest Troops.

The Fourth princely Brother, magnanimous in Soul, tho' tender in Years, fell a Sacrifice to the rude *Pagans*, as he pusht vigorously into the midst of the Enemy's Troops, about the 21st Year of his Age.

The Fifth, no ways inferiour to the former, for Valour and Conduct, took also to the Wars; in one of which Battles it was his Fate to be kill'd by the then declining *Gauls*, about fifteen Years since.

There is another Prince, the youngest of them all; from whom flows many noble Endowments of Mind, and graceful Ornaments of the Body, which renders him a most accomplish'd Prince.

There is also a most incomparable Princess living, a strict *Nazarene*, marry'd to a potent Monarch, of the same Religion, who is a great *Barrier* against the *Mus-ti*, and his *Mussulmen*.

It would fill a Volumn to give an Account of the numerous Issue Heaven has blest'd this Family with; which, in all likelihood, will shine resplendent, and flourish, till the coming of their mighty Emperor.

We

We will therefore leave this pleasing Subject, to finish what we have promis'd in our Title, in relation to the Occurrences of *Two* (supposed) *Turks*. We say, (*supposed*) because our Religion wisely prohibits our giving in to a Belief of *Infallibility*. So that whether *Turks*, *Grecians*, or *Armenians*, we will not determine. Not but if they were either of these, they might be more deserving than many modern *Europeans*, whose *Religion* and *Loyalty* have not been altogether so conspicuous and bright, as to make them boast of their Principles.

But, *supposing* 'em *Turks*, they may be Honest, and Generous, notwithstanding the Prejudices of their Education in Matters of Religion.

'Tis therefore, the inquisitive Reader, (who, *Chamelion*-like, feeds upon airy Amusements) is desir'd, not to make the following an *Article of Faith*; but take it just as it occurs, in the following Account we here give of it.

All *European* Christians are sensible, that the *Turks* are very strict in their *Morals*, and consequently *true to their Word*. There is among them, as in other Nations, the Spirit of *Gratitude* and *Magnanimity*; so

so that whatever they may differ from us, *Christians*, they in a great measure atone for, by their Acts of Justice and Honour.

It was upon these Principles, that these *Turks*, of no mean Extraction, but rather Noble by Birth, (some say, the *Kaimacan's* Sons) went as Volunteers into the *Ottoman* Army, which was then bending its Force against some Parts of the christian Empire.

The late Instance of a War between the *Imperialists* and *Turks*, must swell the Reader's Thoughts, with what vast Numbers, and magnificent Appearance, the *Turks* usually take the Field; so that it suffices to say, that as the Army always carries immense Riches with it, so it must be concluded, every one makes a splendid Appearance suitable to his Quality and Post.

Among the rest, our two young *Turks*, in the Wars some Years since, made no small Appearance in the Field.

They were not many Days in the Army, before they were allarm'd with the approach of their Enemy, who were upon a full March to attack them in their Intrenchments : Whereupon the *Ottoman* Generals, immediately gave the necessary Orders to receive them ; so that in a few

few Hours, there began a most desperate Engagement between both Armies.

Many brave Actions were here performed on both sides; but none more immortal, than those of the *Nazarene* Prince, whose intrepid Courage and Bravery, bore down before him, all the Resistance his Enemies could make.

'Twas with Admiration, that the more Honourable of the *Ottomans* saw him do these Wonders; who, tho' an Enemy, and one, who by the strictness of his *Señt*, was oblig'd to treat them, and their Prophet *Mahomet*, as impious Slaves and Infidels, they could do no less than have a particular Regard for his invincible Conduct.

Among the rest of his Admirers, were these two *Turks*, who engaging in the very next Line, had observ'd his Bravery, and kept a very watchful Eye upon him. They saw that what some of their Officers could not do honourably, they were basely contriving with some false *Nazarenes*, to do by Treachery. They saw him mounted on Heaps of slaughter'd *Spahi's*, making his Way thro' Blood; and with Horror perceiv'd the runagade Assassins at the very Minute they were going to execute their hellish Treason and

and Cowardice ; and 'twas at the same time, that one of the *Turks* broke thro' the Ranks, and with his Sabre split the Head of the Miscreant, before he had time to discharge his Pistol.

Nor was his Comrade-Volunteer less anxious for his Preservation ; but animated with the same Principle of Honour, rode up to another Wretch, and seizing him by the Beard, at one Blow sent him out of the World.

This was no sooner done, but the *Turks* observing one of the *Bassa's* to rally with a strong Body of Cavalry, they rode off with the Prince, in conjunction with some Troops, which came in to his Assistance.

The Battle being over, the *Nazarene* Prince, born with Gratitude, made it his first Business to Reward his Deliverers, taking them into his Tent, and embrac'd them alternately, with the utmost Demonstrations of his Princely Favour and Affection ; bestow'd munificent Gifts upon 'em ; and gave 'em the liberty of being always near and dear to his Princely Person : Following herein closely to the Method of some *Eastern* Princes, in not preferring Persons purely for the Greatness of their Birth, but for the Merits and Vertues of the Mind.

They

They having thus accepted of the Prince's Protection, with infinite Acknowledgments, have ever since continued next to his Princely Person, performing all the faithful Offices Day and Night, peculiar to so great a Trust.

In all his Progresses, they accompany him; and not only Shave him, with the most Delicacy, and Softness, but are assisting in the Dressing and Undressing of his Person.

Their midnight Minutes, are spent alternately, (sometimes jointly) in a piercing Vigilance, whilst the happy Pillow lulls his thoughtful and mighty Genius to Rest.

At the performing their Devoirs to him, they observe the most profound Respect; and 'tis upon the Knee, that they either approach, or withdraw from his Presence. Nay, they have been seen prostrating themselves before him, and kissing the Earth; out of that awful Regard they had to a Prince, so much the peculiar Care of Providence.

D

And

And as this nearness to his Person, and the Confidence the Prince has repos'd in them, must needs let 'em in to some of the minutest Actions of his Life, so have they been heard to speak of his illustrious Vertues, with the greatest Veracity and Honour.

Among the rest, they have declar'd, what the World does now own, *That he is so wise a Prince, he will not suffer the least Piece of Service to him, to go unrewarded; sparing no Cost for the good of his Subjects. That he is so far from giving in to an effeminate Delicacy, that his Looks are not only piercing, but Majestick, commanding an awful Respect and Distance; not declining the doing Justice even to the Poor as well as the Rich. Nor easily shock'd at the formidable Appearances, and Menaces, of his Enemies, either at Home or Abroad. That the Greatness of Majesty, to which Divine Providence has call'd him, has not made him less Thoughtful or Assiduous in his stipulating advantageous Treaties and Alliances, with the greatest Monarchs. That he has a great Soul, with a copious and liberal Disposition: not addicted to Intemperance, or Excess, but*
Con-

Continent and Reserv'd. That his Religion is pure, and fix'd, free from Idolatry and Superstition.

These, and many other are the deserved Characters of the *Nazarene* Prince ; of which, all the illustrious, and true *Nazarenes* about him, are Witnesses, and whose Esteem for him is such, that they are ready to lay down their Lives and Fortunes in the Defence of his sacred Person and Government.

To conclude. If the Reader is not fully satisfied, in the above Relation of the *Two Turks*, and will yet be so Inquisitive as to know more than we can inform him, he must be guilty of a great Misdemeanour, and ill Manners, in satisfying his indiscreet Curiosity, since the *Cabinets of Princes are not to be unlock'd at every one's Pleasure.*

F I N I S.

THE

10



THE
Fatal Amour
BETWEEN A
Beautiful LADY,
AND A
Young NOBLEMAN.



WE need not search into History for Instances of unhappy Marriages ; the Age we live in, affords to many of that kind : And tho' but a melancholly Subject, to treat on, yet 'tis necessary to be known sometimes, that both Sexes in
the

the State of Matrimony, may, by the Misfortunes of others, prevent their own Ruin.

As the Soul of Man governs the Body, so ought the Woman to be subordinate to the Man. All Nations give the Superiority and Domination to him: So that the Woman, in Matrimony, is the greatest *Right* and *Property* a Man can possess.

How bold and daring, then, how horribly impious, must that Robber appear, who is for breaking in upon so sacred a *Rite*? Certainly, there cannot be invented a Punishment softer than Death, to atone for this Violation; and which the injur'd Husband has often Authority on his side, to punish with his own Hands.

The fair Sex, in this *British* Clime, have no reason to reproach *Foreigners*, for their lascivious *Treasons* and *Felonies*, since the Abuse of those Privileges they enjoy above other Women, have not made 'em more Virtuous, or Chaste.

Would

Would they be govern'd by the Dictates of Virtue, they'd gladly Copy after the Lady *Theano* in *Plutarch*, who, as she was Dressing herself one Morning, casually expos'd her naked Arm to a Gentleman then present, who seeing it, was pleas'd to Compliment her thus :

Madam, your Ladiship has a most delicate, and lovely Skin.

I allow it Sir, (said she) but what adds to its Delicacy and Loveliness, is, that it is reserv'd for no other Person but my Husband.

Intimating, that not only the Arm of a vertuous Woman ought not to be expos'd in common to every rude Eye ; but that the whole Body should be kept vail'd from every one but her Husband.

But so far is the fair Sex advanc'd to the Heighth of Immodesty, in their Dress, that it is not difficult for a wanton Eye to discover those Parts, the concealing of which, ought to be the greatest Ornament of their Sex.

But

But Precepts and Examples to the contrary, 'tis fear'd, will have little Influence here, since the repeated Declamations from the *Pulpit*, have not touch'd their Hearts with any true Notions of Vertue, or Honour.

But leaving them to surfeit in their own extravagant Follies, and come to the matter in hand :

Whether or no that the following *Amour*, has run its length to a State of *Impenitency* in the fair *Transgressor*, we have not yet certain Intelligence, no more than what became of her Gallant ; who might justly deserve to be sacrific'd above all mankind.

So that there needs no other Introduction to this *Piece*, than what the Reader will find in the following LETTER, from an injur'd Husband to his Father-in-Law.

My Lord,

Notwithstanding the nearness in Blood to your illustrious Person, the many weighty Affairs you have now under your Hand, and the constant Applications you have for the Welfare of your noble Family, yet, sure I am, you cannot but be sensible of the Uneasiness I am under, when I write to you, what would move the most obdurate to Pity.

'Tis therefore, I am persuaded, the greatness of your Soul minds nothing more, than to Comfort the Afflicted, and Support those who are Oppress'd. This emboldens me to give you the trouble of Reading an account of some Undecencies, and Violences, I have suffer'd of late, which, I believe, will move your Compassion; for I have not drawn them upon my self by any ill Conduct. You, your self, Sir, shall judge of it, and, if you please, remedy it.

You know, Sir, how I marry'd into your most Illustrious House, and took to my Bed, Madam — Your Daughter, whose Beauty, and many Noble Endowments of Mind, render'd her worthy of the greatest Monarch. And I must further

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own to you, that in the beginning of our Union, her Ladyship pay'd me all the Devoirs, to which it engages those who know the Obligations of it; and that I thought my self belov'd by her with all the faithfulness imaginable. I answer'd her Esteem, and Careffes, according to the Affections and Tendernefs of a Husband; and, I dare persuade my self, that my beautiful Spouse had no Cause to complain either of my Coldness, Complaisance, or of my Returns. So that we liv'd happy at that time; and Heaven, who saw our Intelligence, shew'd that he approv'd of it, by blessing our Marriage. We had in the first Years several Children; and, I did not doubt, but that my Spouse, seeing that I made her Mother of a Youth, that promis'd all that could be expected from Us, would yet streighten those Bonds closer which engag'd him to me. But, alas! I was strangely mistaken, for in a few Years, I began to perceive, that my Spouse was tyr'd when we were by our selves; and that she had no longer that Air, and indearing Aspect which I usually beheld in her. She soon added Disdain to her Ill-humor, and I found my self treated in a haughty manner, which touch'd me to the Soul.

As my Conduct has ever been very regular,

gular, and that I never had any thing to reproach my self of, I imagin'd, I should be able to regain my Spouses Affections, not being in the least inclin'd to believe, that she could ever give in to so much Indifference, as to let another share that Part of my Bed, which was my only Right and Property. I imagin'd, that this Coldness would soon be over, and that by a due Care, and strict Penetration, I should be able to triumph over any Injustice that should invade me. But, I found, to my misfortune, that I was mistaken; and I was but too well convinc'd of it, by an Adventure, which pierc'd my Heart, whereof I am constrain'd to give you, Sir, a particular Relation.

You know, Sir, that it is a custom among Persons of Quality, to give one another a New-years Gift, on New-years-day. I thought I should oblige my Lady, by making her a Present at that time. I chose to that end, one of the finest and considerable Jewels I had, which, with a Complement suitable to the Occasion, I caus'd to be presented to her. But the Lady, your Daughter, receiv'd it with a discontented Air, and told me in a haughty manner, *That I might have spar'd that Cost, since she had too many of such Trifles*

by her already. And to add an Affront to her Disdain, that very Day she gave away that fine Present, to a Young Nobleman, who had Merit enough in him to deserve it, had he not made ill Use of those generous Entertainments I gave him in my Family.

But, as my Lord, it was some Time before I knew of this Affront, which touched me so nearly; yet, I must confess to you, that to ease my self, I was willing to impart my Uneasiness to some Person I could confide in. To that end, I unhappily took for my Confident, that perfidious Nobleman just before-mention'd, who (as I have since reason to believe) was the Cause of my Misfortunes, as I will tell you in a moment. For, when he perceived that I had made him Master of all my Secrets, he at first seem'd to sympathize with me, as a Friend; and when I saw him thus Concern'd, I ask'd his Advice what to do on that Occasion. He answer'd, *Sir, you are prudent: But, had I a Wife that us'd me thus, I could hardly forgive her; and I should begin, by refusing her all the Endearments she might expect from me.*

This was the pernicious Advice this Deceiver gave me; who, some Days after, play'd me the basest, most impudent, and unworthy Trick, that was ever put upon a

a Person of my Rank and Quality. As I conceal'd nothing from him, and that of all the Retinue about me, I confided most in him, yet I perceiv'd he had gain'd so much Esteem with my Spouse, as to wear the Jewel I gave her, even before my Face.

You must, my Lord, acknowledge, a Man to be of an uncommon Temper, to support himself under all this;— And, therefore, I presume, you will not Blame me, if I kept a very watchful Eye upon the Conduct of Madam —, Your Daughter: Not but that I had the Command of my Temper so far, as to Conceal my Resentments, from my false Confident.

At first I was resolv'd to take no Notice of this Indiscretion; but my Passion became too violent to hinder me from going to her Apartments, where, with Looks that bespoke something of Justice in my Demand, I ask'd her for the Jewel I had flung away upon her as a New-Years Gift. The Shock she was under, to hear me ask it in such Terms, rais'd in her Face such Arguments of Guilt, that she had not Power to make any other Reply, *Than that it might be lost for what she knew.*

This Loss, *said I to her*, inspires me with strange Thoughts; and I fear you have made an ill use of it. *How, Sir,*
answer'd

answer'd she, *Do you question my Fidelity?* Yes, said I, sincerely, I do question it, and shall be very much 'persuaded, unless this Jewel be found, that you have given it to some Gallant. To what Gallant? *reply'd she in a Transport.* No Man of Honour can accuse me of such a Crime.

You have spoken the Truth, added I, *since no Man of Honour will expose himself to so much Suspicion.* This Reply, which Anger drew suddenly from my Mouth, adding to my Passion, made me go on thus: *You take too much upon you, Madam, in answering me with so much Insolence. But, let me tell you, if ever you speak to me again in this manner, it will, perhaps, make me do Violence to my Nature, in covering your Cheek, and teach you to keep within the Bounds of Respect.*

Fear of drawing some Disgrace upon herself, made her absolutely Silent, not without discovering some sort of Emotion, which was an Uneasiness to her Spirits. So that I thought it convenient to leave her to her self for that time.

But, my Lord, 'tis now Time I should acquaint you with the Adventure which made me first truly sensible of the greatness of my Misfortune. Some Days after the above Discourse, a faithful Domestick of

of mine, happened to find, at the Door of my Wife's Closet, a Letter written in *French*, directed to the Young Lord—. He brought it immediately to me. But, O my God! what became of me, when I found it was a *Billet-Doux*, written by Madam your Daughter, to the aforesaid Person of Quality, who express'd herself in the following Words.

*To the most Accomplish'd, and Noble Lord,
the Lord —*

My Lord,

IT seems difficult for me to resist you any longer. Your Love triumphs over mine. I am vanquish'd, and can no longer be otherwise than yours. I have expos'd my self to a thousand Dangers, in receiving your Letters; and I am undone, unless you prove Prudent and Faithful. Take care of preserving what you have written to me, and be grateful for the Victory you have obtain'd. Should you henceforward be capable of forsaking me, you were not only the most cruel, but likewise the basest of Mankind. It is easy to deceive our Sex. But the easier it is, the more shame there is in doing it: Hitherto nothing has past
between

between us, that we have cause to repent ; tell me then, sincerely, (ah irresistible Fate, if ever there should !) whether you will forsake me, and leave me to the just Resentments of those who have a Right to Reproach me for my Indiscretion ; and tell it me before the Fire that consumes me, be grown more violent, and before we proceed further in an Affair, that would prove fatal to us. We must propose an End in all things, which we ought never to swerve from ; and whereas those of my Sex have but little foresight, I abandon my self to your Conduct, and believe you will have enough for us both. Be careful of your self and me. I am afraid I shall give my self up to you for ever ; and I declare to you, that if you accept me on the Conditions I propose, I shall never be capable of conceiving the design of retracting. Farewel.

As there was no Name at the bottom of this Letter, the Light I had form'd of this Amour, did not appear conspicuous enough to make me as yet fix it : But however, I remain'd speechless for some time, and was as much struck by it, as if Thunder had fallen at my Feet. How unfortunate am I ! (said I to my self, being somewhat recover'd from my Surprise)

to have confided in a faithless Creature that betrays me so basely. Having compos'd my self a little, and being resolv'd to know the utmost extent of my Misfortune, I privately searcht the Cabinet, wherein I found three other Letters written to the said Young Lord, and which I beseech you, Sir, to read, the first of which Letters being as followeth.

To the Noble Lord, the Lord—

My Lord,

I Should write oftner to you, my Lord, if the Opportunities of doing it were more frequent ; I can no longer live contented, but by you : All my Happiness centers in you, and I love you more than my self. You can no longer be ignorant of my Tenderness towards you. You have often beheld my Sufferings, of which my Sighs have been undeniable Proofs. Be not surpriz'd at my discovering my Sentiments to you. You have charm'd me, more than all Mankind besides, so that I am the most passionate of all Women. Hitherto I look'd upon Love as a Chimera, and, 'tis you that have submitted me to his Empire. Do not wonder at my having liv'd so long in this Ignorance.

rance. But your Eyes, whose Darts are so piercing, have penetrated into my very Soul. I am henceforward wholly yours, and am no longer my own. I call you Day and Night, I expect you, I long for you, I only think on you; and your Idea is sole Possessor of my Mind. I have promis'd you all; for you only have gain'd an absolute Power over me. Consider then, what you intend to do; and whether it be not better to save one who adores you, than to kill her who only lives for you. I expect by your Answer, the entire decision of my Fate. Let the Strokes of your Writing be as piercing as those of your Eyes. If they are, I shall live the happiest and most contented of Womankind; otherwise your Denial will kill with Grief,

Yours. —

The Second runs thus:

My Lord,

I Wish you all the Happiness and Prosperity imaginable, for the Kindness you have done me; your Letter has been well and faithfully deliver'd, the Seal unalter'd, and you may rest contented as to that. I can assure you, that I have often interrupted
the

the reading of it, to kiss it ; not that it is too favourable for me, but because that whatever comes from you, is extreamly dear to me. You ironically desire, that we should cease loving one another ; and to justify your desire of extinguishing the Fire, which has kindled it self in your Heart, you alledge the Example of several who have been deceived. But you do it with so much Eloquence, that I am at a loss to know which of the two were easier, to forget you, or to cease admiring your Wit. Teach me, if you can, the Secret of driving you out of my Heart, at the same Moment that I discover so many new Charms. Had you been resolv'd to lessen my Passion, you should not have written with so much Wit as you have done. This is call'd kindling the Fire that one would extinguish. I have already often told you, that I am so entirely yours, that it is impossible for me ever to be otherwise. Pity me, then, instead of disputing it, and let your Sentiments be conformable to mine. If you punish her that loves you, how would you use those that should injure you. Proceed without Despair, and do me the favour to let me know, that I am dear to you, and that you will no longer be cruel.

Yours, &c.

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This Letter, which I found to be of the same kind, as the preceeding, convinc'd me that the Intrigue was fix'd. I found that the Intelligence was reciprocal, and that Madam, my Spouse, and her Gallant, were in a fair Way.— But to be better satisfy'd, I open'd the third Letter, which was in the following Terms.

To the Accomplish'd Lord —

My Lord,

THE Joy I have receiv'd by your Letter, is too great to be express'd. It is true, that the only thing that could any ways diminish it, should be the Doubt you express of my not loving you. — You owe me a Reparation for that Injury: Since I can protest to you, that tho' there are several Persons that cherish you, their Flame is not comparable to mine. Alter your Opinion, then, I beseech you, and tell me no more, that I take a great deal of pains in vain. If you continue in this Strain, I can assure you, that you will kill, at once, the most faithful of Lovers, and the most sincere of all your Friends. Your Rigors will be much more capable of giving me Death, than the Swords of my greatest Enemies.

emies. I desire but one thing more of you, which is, to have some Sensibility and Acknowledgment for the Tenderness I have for you. Tell me, only, I love you; and by that Declaration, which will only cost you three Words, you will make me the happiest Woman living. I always wear your Ring, and kiss it incessantly. Farewel.

The reading of these three Letters was, to me, like so many Darts, which pierc'd my Heart. They inform'd me, or at least, I so perswaded my self, that my Lady grew weary of me, that I was become indifferent to her, and that some body had stolen her Affections from me. As I lov'd my Spouse infinitely, I could not reflect on this Loss, without mortal Grief: And in the Design I form'd of regaining her, I resolv'd to let her know cunningly, that I was not Ignorant of her Intrigues.

In order to which, I expected some Opportunity should offer it self; but it happen'd otherwise: She had been so vigilant as to know my Measures, and was resolv'd to complain first, and that in the most provoking manner, by endeavouring to turn the Tables upon a Husband, that had too great a Regard for her Charms, as to let another Rival her Bed.
And

And here a favourable Juncture occur'd, tho' it cost her dear: And thus it happen'd; which that I may not vary from Matters of Fact, take in her own Words, as she related it to a faithful Niece of mine, who told it me Verbatim afterwards.

AND, now, my Dear, Niece, said she, to satisfy you further of that Distance between me and my Husband, you must know, that my Brother-in-Law, and some other Relations, came to Visit us, about that time, whom we entertain'd very splendidly: But, as I could not sit altogether easy under my Husband's Suspicions, he perceiv'd, that Affliction had over-whelm'd me, and one Day as we sat at Table, said to me, Permit me, dear Sister, to ask the reason of your appearing so sad. I believe, however, that you are very glad to see us; and I take too great a share in what concerns you, not to desire to know what afflicts you.

I beg your Pardon, dear Brother, answer'd I, if I am sad at a time when I ought to be so joyful, having so just a Cause for it, as the Honour of seeing you. But I must needs have a very great Cause of Grief, not to be able to overcome

‘ *come it in your presence.* My Husband,
 ‘ who I thought fear’d the sequel of
 ‘ this Discourse, would interrupt it, and
 ‘ thinking to do it effectually, told my
 ‘ Brother, it is so usual a thing for my
 ‘ Wife to afflict herself at the least Trifle,
 ‘ that I am already altogether us’d to it:
 ‘ So that without minding it, we will, if
 ‘ you believe me, continue our Mirth,
 ‘ and so much the worse for her, if she
 ‘ will not make one.

‘ And these Words he spoke with a
 ‘ disdainful Air, which touch’d me so
 ‘ sensibly, that unfortunately, for me,
 ‘ it oblig’d me to make him this Answer,
 ‘ *Your Suspicions are the only Cause of my*
 ‘ *Affliction; ’tis your Amours with a certain*
 ‘ *Coquette, that disgraces us both; and I*
 ‘ *can no longer endure, that such an incon-*
 ‘ *siderable Creature should so easily rob*
 ‘ *me of the Tenderness you owe me.---*

‘ My Husband answer’d me by a Blow
 ‘ on the Ear; This, *said he*, is the Coin
 ‘ in which I was resolv’d to pay the first
 ‘ liberty you should take of making me
 ‘ those kind of Reproaches. That cruel
 ‘ Blow, which stunn’d me, and bruis’d
 ‘ all my Nose, having drawn a great deal
 ‘ of Blood, oblig’d me to rise from Table.
 ‘ I had so much power over my self as
 not

' not to answer, for fear of redoubling my
 ' disgrace. I ran to my Closet, where
 ' the grief, spite, and shame of being us'd
 ' thus, before Persons of my Quality,
 ' open'd so large a Flood to my Tears,
 ' that I was cover'd all over with them.
 ' All the Company were disturb'd by it;
 ' and my Brother who was the Cause (tho'
 ' innocently) of that Affront, was not to
 ' be comforted.

' He came to me, to tell me, that he
 ' thought himself very unhappy to have
 ' contributed to such an Outrage. He pro-
 ' tested to me, that he was mortally grie-
 ' ved at it; and after having beg'd my Par-
 ' don, he went back to my Husband, whom
 ' he found not coal yet; and therefore,
 ' not to exasperate him the more, he only
 ' contented himself with saying these few
 ' Words to him. *Ab, my Brother, this is*
 ' *too much.* — Yes, my dear Brother,
 ' *reply'd he,* but the Occasion requir'd it.—

' Thus Matters stood a little, till he
 ' judg'd my Husband capable of Advice,
 ' when he told him plainly, That he was
 ' to Blame; that those Violences were
 ' unbecoming his Character; and that a
 ' Young Lady, like me, was not to be
 ' us'd so unworthily. He added, That
 ' having partly been the Cause of that
 Affront;

Affront, he was not to be Comforted for
 it; and that he had been far from coming to see him, had he been able to foresee that Accident. In fine, he declar'd to him, that he was resolv'd to retire the next Day; and even without taking leave of him, unless he made me Reparation that very Day for the Affront he had done me.

' What you desire of me, is so just, *answer'd my Husband*, that you shall be satisfy'd: At least it shall not be my fault, if you be not; for I engage my Word to you, that I will see my Lady to Day, and that I will omit nothing to disarm her Anger. You restore me to Life, said my Brother; and whereas my Wife and I have been Witnesses to the Injury, I hope you will likewise let us be present at the Reparation. I am so willing, *reply'd my Husband*, that if you desire it, it shall be done instantly. The sooner the better, *said my Brother*: But suffer me first to give your Lady Notice of it, and to dispose her to receive you.

' My Husband consented to all; and my Brother being come to my Closet, found me in an inconceivable Sadness, and said to me, in order to diminish it, *Dear Sister, you will make your self Sick,*

‘ if you abandon your self thus to your
 ‘ Grief; and you might even offend God,
 ‘ in suffering it to continue too long. Your
 ‘ Husband is coming to see you: He is very
 ‘ sorry for the Injury his Passion has dealt
 ‘ with you, and will excuse himself to you
 ‘ for it. Receive it favourably, and be
 ‘ careful not to hinder your Reconciliation,
 ‘ by vexing him any farther.

‘ My Brother had hardly spoken thus,
 ‘ when my Husband came into my Closet,
 ‘ and accosted me with a pleasing Coun-
 ‘ tenance, telling me, with that agreeable-
 ‘ ness which is usual to him, and which he
 ‘ can assume when ever he pleases: Well,
 ‘ Madam, do you still preserve any Indig-
 ‘ nation against a passionate Husband, who
 ‘ do’s but too well deserve it? And will
 ‘ you not promise me, to forget what is
 ‘ past, in favour of the Acknowledgments
 ‘ I have of it already?

‘ I do no longer remember any thing, said
 ‘ I; and the Grief you express for that
 ‘ which I have receiv’d, is too Obliging,
 ‘ not to make me lose the remembrance of it.
 ‘ If I am not yet altogether satisfy’d with
 ‘ both, ’tis only because my dear Brother
 ‘ and Sister, have been Witnesses of our
 ‘ Difference. They have cause to complain
 ‘ of the Manner of their Reception, and must
 needs

‘ *needs depart from hence Dissatisfy’d with*
 ‘ *having seen us in the Disposition where-*
 ‘ *in we are.*

‘ Fear nothing on that side, *said my*
 ‘ *Sister*, we are so well pleas’d with what
 ‘ we see at present, that we Congratulate
 ‘ with you about it with all our Hearts.
 ‘ *That is very kind*, said I, *and since you are*
 ‘ *no longer Concern’d*, I am willing to for-
 ‘ *get all.* And for my part, *said my Hus-*
 ‘ *band*, embracing me, I, in my turn, will
 ‘ forget all; except the remembering,
 ‘ that you are the best and most generous
 ‘ Women in the World; and I wish that
 ‘ my Cheek may blot out the brutal blow
 ‘ of my Hand.

‘ And here, after some other Discourse
 ‘ of Tenderness and Reconciliation, seem-
 ‘ ingly to the satisfaction of all the Com-
 ‘ pany, he took leave of me, and left me
 ‘ to my self.

‘ Night being come, and Supper serv’d,
 ‘ I was sent for to come to Table: But
 ‘ being engag’d in writing some Letters
 ‘ to be sent by an extraordinary Post that
 ‘ Night, I order’d one of my Gentlewo-
 ‘ men to tell them, That I beg’d ’em to
 ‘ excuse me for not eating with them that
 ‘ Night. That I was oblig’d, in haste, to
 ‘ send several Letters, which I could not

‘ defer till another time. They supp’d
 ‘ thus without me, and I caused something
 ‘ to be brought to me, which I did eat
 ‘ in haste in my Closet.

‘ My Husband, perhaps, fearing I in-
 ‘ tended to write something about our
 ‘ Differences, being desirous to penetrate
 ‘ into it, or even to hinder it, if it were
 ‘ possible, came to me that very Night.
 ‘ I was surpriz’d to see him: My Letters
 ‘ were already dispatch’d. I was just
 ‘ going into Bed, when he came in, and
 ‘ one of my Women having open’d the
 ‘ Door to him, I come, *said he*, with a
 ‘ gallant Air, to look for a Refuge in
 ‘ this Closet, knowing no place where I
 ‘ could be with more safety or pleasure.
 ‘ Sir, said I, *you have no cause to fear, you*
 ‘ *are Master every where. But if you*
 ‘ *will give me leave to dispose of my own*
 ‘ *Apartment, you must suffer me to enjoy*
 ‘ *that Repose which I stand in need of;*
 ‘ *and which those Hours allow to all the*
 ‘ *World.*

‘ Will you turn away, *said he*, your
 ‘ Husband, who is alone, and who ex-
 ‘ pected to pass with you the most agree-
 ‘ able Night he ever had. *You have of*
 ‘ *late made me sensible*, said I, *that both my*
 ‘ *Bed and Person are things very indiffe-*
 ‘ *rent*

‘ rent to you ; and I would not have you
 ‘ constrain you self so far, as to perswade
 ‘ me that your Mind is alter’d.

‘ However, said he, it is not very ge-
 ‘ neros to be cruel in your own Apart-
 ‘ ment, and to refuse a Man who che-
 ‘ rishes and honours you. You flatter
 ‘ me, Sir, said I, and I have such con-
 ‘ vincing Proofs of it, that if you press
 ‘ me never so little, I will speak more plainly
 ‘ to you. You will oblige me answer’d
 ‘ he, and I shall be glad to know the
 ‘ Reasons which hinders you from allow-
 ‘ ing me half a Bed, which, by right, I
 ‘ ought to partake with you. ’Tis your
 ‘ Indifference towards me, and the Passion
 ‘ you have for another, reply’d I, which
 ‘ persuades me, that I owe this Return
 ‘ of yours to Policy, and obliges me humbly
 ‘ to entreat you to leave me. For you can
 ‘ no longer give me a Heart, in which I
 ‘ plac’d all the happiness of my Life. And
 ‘ who has taken it from you ? said my
 ‘ Husband, with some Transport. You
 ‘ know it better than I, said I ; and, after
 ‘ what is past, I dare no more name the
 ‘ Person I complain of.

‘ For Heavens sake, Madam, said he,
 ‘ do no longer oppose the Curiosity I have
 ‘ of knowing the Person who has rob’d
 ‘ you

' you of a thing, which you look upon
 ' as being of some value. You are not
 ' Ignorant of it, answer'd I ; but instead
 ' of obliging me to pronounce an odious
 ' Name, rather deliver up to me the Per-
 ' son that owns it. I ought to punish her
 ' according to her deserts ; and if you
 ' refuse that Sacrifice to me, I shall be-
 ' lieve, that when you tell me, that you
 ' love me, you add Derision to Treachery.
 ' Now I understand you, Madam, reply'd
 ' he, I know what you mean: But I
 ' protest to you, that you wrong that
 ' Innocent Maid, and that she is not so
 ' guilty as you imagine.

' What me ans this Letter then ? said I,
 ' which being in French, I read in the
 ' following Words,

' To Mademoiselle ——— the beautiful
 ' Charmer of my Soul.

' My Life and Soul,

' IS it possible for me to Live, and not
 ' be always contemplating on the many
 ' Charms I found in you t'other Night ?
 ' And can you forget all my Assiduities,
 ' and the vehement Passion I have for You.
 ' Ob, no Lovely ——— Fair One, I am in-
 ' spir'd

& spir'd to believe, you will compleat those
 ' Felicities, uncommon to one, who, mista-
 ' ken Wretch! has hitherto had nothing
 ' but Visionary Pleasures in the State I am
 ' in. — 'Tis therefore, I conjure you, to
 ' let me see you this Night, where one that
 ' Loves you as his Soul, will think himself,
 ' the happiest Man living to expire in your
 ' Arms. —

' And do's not this Letter, my Lord,
 ' equally prove my Misfortune, your In-
 ' fidelity, and the Crime of that Cocquete?
 ' These are great Words, Madam, reply'd
 ' he, but there is a mistake, and you frigh-
 ' ten your self upon Appearances. Upon
 ' Appearances! said I, with some heat:
 ' Know, Sir, that no greater Injury can be
 ' done to me; and that nothing but the
 ' Blood of her I complain of, can be capable
 ' of giving me satisfaction.

' I then pull'd out of my Pocket ano-
 ' ther Letter which troubled me, and ha-
 ' ving read it aloud, Well, Sir, said I, will you
 ' accuse me of wanting just Reasons to pu-
 ' nish this false One? And will you not own,
 ' at least, that I am better inform'd of your
 ' Concerns, than you desir'd?

' My Husband smil'd at this Reproach,
 ' and answer'd me with an Air, which
 ' appear'd

‘ appear’d pretty sincere to me. Is this
 ‘ all then, Madam ? Certainly you wrong
 ‘ your self, in mistaking a Trifle for a
 ‘ thing of Moment. This Letter, which
 ‘ alarms you, is only a piece of Wit ;
 ‘ and you might certainly be persuaded,
 ‘ that I should have been more careful
 ‘ of it, had I look’d upon it as a thing
 ‘ whereof the Expressions had been dicta-
 ‘ ted by the Heart, or in which I had
 ‘ taken any solid pleasure. But this is
 ‘ the reality of the Business: You know
 ‘ that *Mademoiselle* speaks and writes
 ‘ very good *French*. I was willing to
 ‘ exercise my self, and her also, to have
 ‘ some kind of Commerce with her in
 ‘ that Language: And whereas nothing
 ‘ is so proper to write to young Persons
 ‘ of her Sex, as Gallantry; I acquainted
 ‘ her that *Monsieur* our Nephew lov’d her,
 ‘ and desir’d her to answer him, as if she
 ‘ approv’d his Passion, and had been proud
 ‘ of it. The poor Lady has had that Com-
 ‘ plaisance, and has written to me, partly
 ‘ as you Translate it ; having made me
 ‘ her Confident.

‘ However, said I, *this Commerce is*
 ‘ *very suspicious to me, I have seen seve-*
 ‘ *ral Letters that frighted me ; and un-*
 ‘ *derstand no jesting, when a young Maid*
 ‘ *writes*

' writes in such Terms to her Master, and
 ' my Husband. So, Sir, plead her Cause
 ' no longer, I beseech you, but deliver her
 ' up to me for my Revenge.

' I should offend Justice, said he, should
 ' I not protect Innocence. This poor
 ' Lady has only fail'd in Appearance, in
 ' obeying me effectively. Therefore, Ma-
 ' dam, calm your self: For since those
 ' sort of things are displeasing to you, I
 ' will renounce them absolutely. You will
 ' oblige me, said I; and seeing that I
 ' could obtain no more from him, I told
 ' him that it was very late, and that the
 ' number of my Dispatches had wearied
 ' me, and therefore conjur'd him by his ab-
 ' sence, to allow me some rest. But why,
 ' Madam, said he, will you refuse me
 ' the Favour I desire; and what hinders
 ' you from granting me a Night, in which
 ' I propose so much pleasure to my self.

' When I had the Felicity of being uni-
 ' ted to your Ladyship, said I, by the sacred
 ' Knot of Marriage, I acknowledge you as
 ' my Master, and engag'd my self to obey
 ' you. But, Sir, continu'd I weeping,
 ' would you always give me a divided
 ' Heart? And can you without regret,
 ' prefer a Rival, who do's not love you so
 ' much as I do? And who may, without

H

' wronging

‘ *wronging her self, yield to me in every
‘ thing else.*

‘ I tell you Madam, *added he*, that
‘ your Suspicions magnify Objects; and
‘ that the Phantasm that troubles you, is
‘ the effect of a deceiv’d Imagination. But
‘ let us make Peace, and do not refuse me
‘ the Rights of a Husband, which I de-
‘ sire of you. I express’d my Consent, by
‘ an Obeysance; whereupon causing him-
‘ self to be undress’d, we lay together,
‘ and were entirely reconcil’d. He pro-
‘ tested to me a thousand times, that this
‘ Commerce of Letters was innocent;
‘ that *Mademoiselle* was Virtuous; and
‘ that he had rather dye, than violate
‘ the Fidelity he had sworn to me.

‘ I answer’d, as I ought, to those kind
‘ and satisfying Expressions. I told him
‘ that I was very well satisfy’d; and we
‘ rose the next Morning, at least on my
‘ part, with a firm Resolution of living,
‘ for the future, in a perfect Intelligence.

‘ I relish’d, for some Days, the pleasure
‘ of being reconcil’d to what one loves,
‘ but that pleasure was not lasting. The
‘ *Dæmon*, who delights in ruining the best
‘ Union, came to trouble ours; and did
‘ it in a manner, that has been made too
‘ publick I am afraid.’

‘ Thus

Thus, Sir, you may perceive that I deal fairly with your Lordship; but you will more conspicuously see, that these are all Forgeries of your Daughter, proceeding from her own Guilt, when, after having repeated so many Falsties; for, 'tis plain, that the Young Lady she there pretends to say was my Mistress, had not been in the Family, for six Months before the Time of her forging the Letter your unhappy Daughter insinuates I writ to her. Nay, Madam, the B——s of —— can Witness for her, who is her Aunt, that she was all that Time, during this fictitious Plan was forming, at one of your Country Seats, 15 Leagues from the Capital of these Territories, and where I never was but once, and that some Years since.

But there will need no farther Apology for my own Conduct in this Affair; when, after having had several Children, by Madam, your Daughter, whom I Lov'd intirely, the World, with your Lordship, will be perswaded to my side, when I come to tell you, what my own Eyes were Witness to; and which, if well weigh'd, will strike with Amazement the inquisitive World.— And thus it comes on.

There was an Appointment made in my Family, to go and spend the Summer,

at the pleasant Town of *H---*, to which I agreed, and went thither, with my Spouse, and a splendid Retinue: where I met with a great Concourse of Persons of Distinction; the most eminent of which, I invited one Day, to a costly Entertainment; but I had very much reason to Repent of this Treat, not so much for the Profuseness of it, but for the Affront my Spouse put upon me, in the presence of them all. As she was very richly Dress'd, (perhaps, with more Gaiety, than usually becomes a Mother of Children) I chanced to lay my Hand on her naked Bosome, for which, she gave me such a disdainful Look, accompanied with such haughty Expressions, that the Company could not but observe, by my Looks, but that my Resentments were proportional to the Affront.

But this is a trivial Matter: I shall not conceal the most Important from you:— I had not shar'd above half the Summer's Diversion at this fine Place, but my Business call'd me home. 'Twas my Inclination the whole Family should do the like; But, Madam, your Daughter, was pleas'd to take the Freedom to stay there some Time after me. She knew that it would not please me. And, indeed, she behav'd herself in so high a manner, that I was
 pity'd

pity'd by all those who knew the Sequel of our Differences.

However, having almost spent the Summer, after several Orders for her to come Home. — She sent me Answers in such a Strain, that they were the most provoking that could come from a Wife. — One was, *That she was not so indiscreet, but she could tell when her Affairs requir'd her.* Another, *That she knew well enough what Felicity was, since she had no Controller at her Country-Seat.* A Third, *That she knew Time was flitting, and that she was not so bad a Register, but that she could tell how long the Season would permit her to stay:—* — With other like undutiful Expression: not fitting for a Husband to bear. —

Upon this, I sent my positive Commands for her to return in a fix'd Time; and, that I might not slight some private Intelligence I had gain'd from one, who was always near her, I went Incognito, to observe her Behaviour: — — And here, with Grief, Horror, and Shame, my Lord, I come to draw the fatal Scene! Be it known to you, therefore, that having Intelligence, that she had admitted into her Chamber, a Stranger, I had no longer Patience, but, fir'd with Resentment, I took two of my Domesticks, and, bursting open the Door, rush'd

rush'd in upon her, when I found them sitting together, with a familiarity no way agreeable to any but Husband and Wife.

Here Patience, immediately took its flight, and abandon'd me to the most aggravated Passion a Man could bear; and to act as Rage and Fury prompted me: So that having a Pistol in my Hand, I fir'd it at the Author of my Misfortunes, just as he was leaping into a Mote which surrounded the House.

Whether or no, the Pistol did any Execution, I cannot as yet tell; but true it is, the Ravisher has never been heard of since.

And, now my Lord, does not this fatal Intrigue merit the highest Resentment? Certainly, you will not Blame me, that, after this Action, I gave Orders that your Daughter should be confin'd to her Chamber, with a Maid or two, and that all my Servants, should strictly watch her Apartments, 'till I knew your Lordship's Pleasure.

But, my Lord, my Spouse having now time to recriminate her false Conduct, and finding her self so narrowly observ'd, that her Spies were uneasy to her, she wrote me the following Letter.

Sir,

S I R,

I Am so much troubled by the many Observators about my Chamber Door Day and Night, that I cannot sufficiently express to you the Anguish it puts me in. The noise they make, frightens me, and my Captivity becomes every Moment more insupportable. Permit me, Sir, to entreat you to behave your self towards me in a manner that may be approv'd of as a Tenderness to my Sex : And give me leave to tell you, that there is no need of placing so many Spies about a Woman, that has nothing but her Tears and Innocence to oppose them. I say, particularly, my Innocence, because that after having examin'd my self well, and call'd to mind my Conduct, and my whole Life, I can find nothing in either, wherein I could have intended to offend my Husband. Therefore I conjure you, by all that's Good, and by that Tenderness you formerly had for me, to restore me to my Liberty. If I am Guilty, 'tis fit I should be Punish'd : But if I am Innocent, let me enjoy the Priviledges due to a Wife. I desire a fair hearing, and that I may be allow'd to use those Means that may tend to my Justification. I am so strangely disturb'd by the Noise of those you have set over me, that ever since they have chang'd my Closet
into

into a Prison, I have not been able to take any Rest. Be pleas'd to order them to retire; for if you will needs have me observ'd, three or four will be as effectual as so many. I am in a place where you are absolute Master; and you have no cause to fear an Escape, where you Command so strictly, I am

Your disconsolate Wife, and your

most humble and most

obedient Servant, —

This Letter was deliver'd to me as I was at Table. When I open'd it at first sight, and having read it, order'd all should be dismiss but three or four, and those to make as little Disturbance as could be. The Order was immediately put in Execution; and as she was rejoycing at the good Effect her Letter had produc'd, she receiv'd the following Answer I writ to her.

Madam;

I Am much surpriz'd at your seeming to be Ignorant of the Cause of your Confinement. Therefore you accuse me of Injustice, and insinuate,

nate, that I persecute Innocence in your
 Person. However, it is not possible for you
 to have so soon forgotten the affront at
 H-n, when I order'd you to follow me, and
 order'd it in such a manner as shew'd I would
 be obey'd. Notwithstanding which, you not
 only disobey'd me, but remain'd there several
 Weeks, where you spent an excessive deal of
 Money, without considering that our Estate
 and Effects being already but too much drein'd,
 had no need of such Profusions. I have be-
 sides another Subject of Complaint, which you
 cannot plead Ignorance to. Remember then
 the Affront which you put upon me before,
 all my Friends the day of the last Feast.
 You appear'd there in an extraordinary Pomp
 and Magnificence; and were not only glori-
 ously attyr'd, but even shew'd your Neck with
 as much affectation as the most Publick Coquet
 could do. I imagin'd I should have oblig'd
 you, in putting my Hand upon that part of
 your Body which was so bare, I mean your
 Breast. But I was extreamly surpriz'd at
 your haughty Rebuke. You behav'd your self
 towards me, as if I had been a Stranger to you:
 And you declar'd before all those Gentlemen,
 that in a little time you would not allow
 me any of those Favours which Marriage
 authorizes, and which you had no Right to
 refuse me. Reflect, moreover, upon the Ad-
 ventures of your Return, and you will be
 oblig'd to acknowledge, that my Behaviour
 towards

towards you is very just. Particularly since my Discovery of that most abominable Amour, which must for ever stop your Mouth, and make you think it no hardship if I should find out an expedient in order to our divorce. This is the Reason that induc'd me to confine your Person, as well to hinder your Amours as to satisfy my just Revenge. Therefore if you will follow my Advice, resolve to be calm, and to acquiesce to the Circumstances you are in. Which if you do, perhaps an Expedient may be found out, (after having first Writ to your Father) whereby you shall not only be set at Liberty, but that I will, besides, allow you a Pension, fit to maintain one of your Rank. I expect your last Resolution, and am your abused Husband, &c.

After the reading of this surprizing Letter, I was told, that she flung herself on the Bed, and remain'd for some time more dead than alive; not knowing what to resolve upon. She saw her self in the Hands of an angry Husband, who had an absolute Power over her: And had no body to advise or comfort her. Nevertheless something was to be resolv'd upon, and a positive Answer to be given; and believing, I expected it with Impatience, she sent one of her Maids to me, to tell me, That she neither was in a Condition, nor had the Will, to resist me; That she submitted to all, excepting the consenting to a Divorce; That it was a Case of Conscience, which

which ought not to be decided so lightly. That if, however, I was so much bent upon it, that nothing could prevail to the contrary, I might even in that Case receive Satisfaction, since she found her self very much inclin'd to refuse me nothing.

This Maid, who lov'd her, perform'd her Errand faithfully; and I was so extremely pleas'd with her Message, that I bid her hasten to tell her, That she cannot pitch upon any thing better than Compliance: And that in order to begin my Acknowledgement of it, I am going to put her more at Liberty. She may walk in the Gardens: And as to the Scruple she expresses about a Divorce, tell her she need not have any, and that I take all the ill she might fear upon my self. Above all, advise her not to write any thing to her Relations about it; 'till I have receiv'd an Answer from the most indulgent Lord her Father, but let her behave herself so, as not to give me cause to repent the good Treatment I design'd her.

She did not expect the Effect of my promise long, that very Evening she went out, and took the Benefit of the Air; and since that time, has had more Liberty than any one, (sorry for the Crimes she stands charg'd withal,) would desire.

And thus, my dear Lord, and Father, you have read the Injuries I have receiv'd,

from one whom my Bosome has Nurs'd with the most Cherishing Fidelity and Tenderness ——— Would to Heaven I could for ever obliterate the Remembrance of those unhappy Transgressions out of my Mind, provided a sincere Contrition and Repentance might accompany her serious Consideration of the Heinousness of them. —

Sure, I am, that for the sake of my dear Children, I should have some Regard for the Womb that bare them: And with the like Confidence do I believe, your paternal Care for her Spiritual Welfare, will recommend to her with all the force and Energy of Words, the Authority of a Parent, has a Right to inculcate, such wholsome Admonitions, as may put her upon a speedy and strict Examen of her Misconduct, as may have a Way for some seeming Compensation. —

And now, my Lord, having tir'd your Lordship with what can no ways be grateful to a Virtuous Mind, 'tis high time I put a Period to so Melancholly a Subject; and which shall be concluded with my submissive Expectations of those seasonable Commands you will be pleas'd to lay me under, as to my future Conduct in so nice an Affair. I am my Lord, with infinite submission, your afflicted Son, and most humble Servant ———

F I N I S.

[illegible]

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